The Daily Bulletin

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1883,

BEECHER ON HANGING.

"What are we to do with our criminals?" asked the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher in his morning sermon recently. "Is it our duty to hang a man 'who has perpetrated murder? It society needs to have him suffer the extreme penalty of the law, I am inclined to reply in the affirmative. Society must protect itself. If the welfare of a civilized community requires the erection of the scaffold in our midst we must so act that the greatest good to the greatest number will be promoted. Offending members in the community must be taken care of in the same manner that the farmer treats the weeds which grow among the grain in his fields. I am not perfectly satisfied with the method of punishing criminals. I hope to live to see the time when we can have a better use for a man than stretching his neck with a halter. Hanging will do for the present, and it may continue to be a useful thing for many years to come. In olden times the death penalty was inflicted not only for murder, but for many lesser crimes. In these days we do not find it necessary to hang men for stealing. We think thieves are sufficiently punished if we send them to State prison of the penitentiary. But, my friends, I am praying for the time when even imprisonment will be numbered among the customs of the past." A smile overspread the faces of his congregation when Mr. Beecher said: "My friends, you and I are no better than many men who are now wearing striped jackets and breaking stone at Sing Sing. Many poor fellows have perpetrated crimes from sheer force of circumstances. They were not bad at heart, but they became entangled in the meshes of the law and could not resist temptation. But no man should be hanged because the people have a spite against him. We must always have sympathy for the criminal."

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Sup't Water Works S. K. Kaat, Minister of Interior. 201

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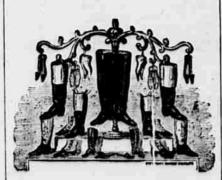
Honolulu, March 9, 1883.

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